

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A railing comprising: upright laterally spaced upright posts, a top rail extended between ~~and connected to~~ said posts, first means connecting the top rail to said posts, a bottom rail located below the top rail and extended between ~~and connected to~~ said posts, second means connecting the bottom rail to said posts, a plurality of laterally spaced upright spindles extend between said top and bottom rails, first ball knobs, first fasteners attaching the first ball knobs to the top rail, second ball knobs, second fasteners attaching the second ball knobs to the bottom rail in general vertical alignment with the first ball knobs, said spindles having opposite ends with inside walls located in telescopic relation with the first and second ball knobs thereby anchoring the spindles on the rails, a first spacer located between the first ball knobs and the top rail, said first spacer comprising a first plate extended along the length of the top rail between said posts and located in engagement with the top rail ~~between said posts~~, said first fasteners retaining the first spacer in engagement with the top rail and connecting the first ball knobs to the top rail, and a second spacer located between the second ball knobs and the bottom rail, said second spacer comprising a second plate extended along the length of the bottom rail between said posts and located in engagement with the bottom rail ~~between said posts~~, said second fasteners retaining the second spacer in engagement with the bottom rail and connecting the second ball knobs to the bottom rail, said first and second plates having laterally spaced and centered holes for the first and second fasteners thereby laterally spacing the adjacent first ball knobs and the adjacent second ball knobs and the adjacent spindles.

2-4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) A railing comprising: upright laterally spaced upright posts, a top rail extended between and connected to said posts, a bottom rail located below the top rail and extended between and connected to said posts, a plurality of laterally

spaced upright spindles extended between said top and bottom rails, first ball knobs, first fasteners attaching the first ball knobs to the top rail, second ball knobs, second fasteners attaching the second ball knobs to the bottom rail in general vertical alignment with the first ball knobs, said spindles having opposite ends with inside walls located in telescopic relation with the first and second ball knobs thereby anchoring the spindles on the rails, first spacers comprising generally circular first disks located between the first ball knobs and the top rail spacing the first ball knobs and spindles from the top rail, said first fasteners retaining the first disks in engagement with the top rail and connecting the first ball knobs to the top rail, and second spacers comprising generally circular second disks located between the second ball knobs and the bottom rail spacing the second disks and spindles from the bottom rail, and second fasteners retaining the second disks in engagement with the bottom rail and connecting the second ball knobs to the bottom rail.

6. (Original) The railing of Claim 1 wherein: said spindles are linear tubes having open opposite ends telescoped in tight fit engagement around the first and second ball knobs.

7. (Previously Presented) The railing of Claim 6 wherein: said inside walls of the spindles have inwardly directed projections engageable with the first and second ball knobs to inhibit rotation of the spindles relative to the first and second knobs.

8. (Original) The railing of Claim 1 wherein: each of said first and second ball knobs have a spherical body having an annular convex side wall located in a tight frictional contact with an inside wall of the spindle.

9. (Original) The railing of Claim 8 wherein: said convex side wall includes a plurality of spaced circumferential outwardly extended continuous ribs located in bias contact with said inside wall of the spindle.

10. (Previously Presented) The railing of Claim 5 wherein: each of said first and second ball knobs have outwardly extended annular ribs located in tight friction contact with an inside wall of one of the spindles.

11. (Previously Presented) The railing of Claim 5 wherein: said inside walls of the spindles have inwardly directed projections, and said first and second knobs having outwardly directed annular ribs, said projections being engageable with said ribs to inhibit rotations of the spindles relative to the first and second knobs.

12. (Currently Amended) A railing comprising: a top rail, a bottom rail located below the top rail, a plurality of laterally spaced upright spindles extend between said top and bottom rails, first ball knobs, first fasteners attaching the first ball knobs to the top rail, second ball knobs, second fasteners attaching the second ball knobs to the bottom rail in general vertical alignment with the first ball knobs, said spindles having opposite ends with inside walls located in telescopic relation with the first and second ball knobs thereby anchoring the spindles on the rails, a first spacer comprising a first plate extended along the length of the top rail and located in engagement with the top rail spacing the first ball knobs and spindle from the top rail, said first fasteners retaining the first plate in engagement with the top rail and connecting the first ball knobs to the top rail, and a second spacer comprising a second plate extended along the length of the bottom rail and located in engagement with the bottom rail spacing the second ball knobs and spindle from the bottom rail, said second fasteners retaining the second plate in engagement with the bottom rail and connecting the second ball knobs to the bottom rail, said first and second plates having laterally spaced and centered holes for the first and second fasteners thereby laterally spacing the adjacent first ball knobs and the adjacent second ball knobs and the adjacent spindles.

13-15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) A railing comprising: a top rail, a bottom rail located below the top rail, a plurality of laterally spaced upright spindles extended between said top and bottom rails, first ball knobs, first fasteners attaching the first ball knobs to the top rail, second ball knobs, second fasteners attaching the second ball knobs to the bottom rail in general vertical alignment with the first ball knobs, said spindles having opposite ends with inside walls located in telescopic relation with the first and second ball knobs thereby anchoring the spindles on the rails, first spacers comprising generally circular first disks located in engagement with the top rail spacing the first ball knobs from the top rail, said first fasteners retaining the first disks in engagement with the top rail and connecting the first ball knobs to the top rail, second spacers comprising generally circular second disks located in engagement with the bottom rail, said second fasteners retaining the second disks in engagement with the bottom rail and connecting the second ball knobs to the bottom rail.

17. (Previously Presented) The railing of Claim 16 wherein: said spindles are linear tubes having open opposite ends telescoped in tight fit engagement around the first and second ball knobs.

18. (Previously Presented) The railing of Claim 16 wherein: said inside walls of said spindles have inwardly directed projections engageable with the first and second ball knobs to inhibit rotation of the spindles relative to the first and second knobs.

19. (Previously Presented) The railing of Claim 16 wherein: each of said first and second ball knobs have a spherical body having an annular convex side wall located in a tight frictional contact with an inside wall of the spindle.

20. (Previously Presented) The railing of Claim 19 wherein: said convex side wall includes a plurality of laterally spaced and outwardly extended continuous annular ribs located in bias contact with said inside wall of the spindle.

21. (Previously Presented) The railing of Claim 16 wherein: each of said first and second ball knobs have outwardly extended annular ribs located in tight friction contact with an inside wall of the spindle.

22. (Previously Presented) The railing of Claim 16 wherein: said inside walls of the spindles have inwardly directed projections, said first and second knobs having circumferential outwardly directed ribs, said projections being engageable with ribs to inhibit rotation of the spindles relative to the first and second knobs.

23. (Currently Amended) In combination: a tube having an open end and inside wall, and a ball knob adapted to be secured to a support, said ball knob comprising a spherical body having an annular convex curved side wall, a hole extended through the body for accommodating a fastener to secure the knob to a support, and a plurality of laterally spaced and outwardly extended continuous annular ribs on the annular convex curved side wall of the body, said ribs extended completely around the side wall of the body, said open end of the tube being telescoped around the convex curved side wall with the annular ribs biased into engagement with the inside wall of the tube.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The combination of Claim 23 wherein: the body is a one-piece plastic member.

26. (Previously Presented) The combination of Claim 23 wherein: the body has a flat circular top surface and a flat circular bottom surface, said hole extended between said surfaces.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Original) The combination of Claim 23 wherein: the body is a truncated spherical member.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Previously Presented) The combination of Claim 23 wherein: the body has a top surface, said annular convex curved side wall has an outwardly curved annular portion extended downwardly from the top surface of the body to said annular ribs.

31. (Currently Amended) A ball knob for anchoring a tube having an inside wall to a support comprising: a spherical body having a top surface, a bottom surface, and an annular convex curved side wall, a plurality of laterally spaced and outwardly extended continuous annular ribs on the annular convex curved side wall of the body adapted to be located in biasing engagement with the inside wall of the tube, said ribs extended completely around the side wall of the body, and a hole in the body extended between said top and bottom surfaces for accommodating a fastener to secure the knob to the support.

32. (Original) The ball knob of Claim 31 wherein: the body is a one-piece plastic member.

33. (Original) The ball knob of Claim 31 wherein: the top surface is a flat circular surface.

34. (Original) The ball knob of Claim 31 wherein: the bottom surface of the body is a flat circular surface.

35. (Original) The ball knob of Claim 31 wherein: the body is a truncated spherical member.

36-37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) The ball knob of Claim 31 wherein: said annular convex curved side wall has an outwardly curved annular portion extended downwardly from the top surface of the body toward said annular ribs.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently Amended) A ball knob for anchoring a tube having an inside wall to a support comprising: a spherical body having a top surface, a generally flat bottom surface adapted to be located in surface engagement with the support, and a continuous annular convex curved side wall adapted to be located in tight frictional engagement with the inside wall of the tube, at least one outwardly directed continuous annular rib on the convex curved side wall of the body adapted to frictionally engage the inside wall of the tube, said rib extended completely around the side wall, and a hole in the body extended between said top and bottom surfaces for accommodating a fastener to secure the knob to the support and retain the bottom surface in surface engagement with the support.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Previously Presented) The ball knob of Claim 40 including: a plurality of laterally spaced and outwardly extended annular ribs on the convex curved side wall of the body adapted to engage the inside wall of the tube.